

12 March 1951

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SUBJECT: Blackbird Activity.

Technical Aspects

Supplementing a report dated 23 February 1951, following is a summary of the technical problems which confronted the B. Team in the field.

Technical Equipment Available. The team was assured that sufficient technical equipment of good quality existed in the field and would be immediately placed at their disposal upon arrival. This equipment consisted of one wire recorder and the use of one polygraph instrument. Repairs were effected on the recorder before it could be used. The quality of this recorder was not considered good enough to record interrogations with the idea in mind that such recordings would be used for future transcription or training purposes. A request was made for equipment, possibly renting locally. A search was made in the local market and no such equipment to fit our needs could be found. An employee succeeded in getting one Model American Tape Recorder. This machine was immediately put to use.

The polygraph instrument was used only as a cover. However this was unfortunate, since the Electrodermal Unit was inoperative in each session. Repairs were not attempted since it was indicated that facilities for repairs existed locally.

Results. Recordings were made of all pertinent questioning and were of average quality. A complete transcription has since been made. The need for reliable photographic equipment was urgent. Nothing in this type of equipment could be located when needed.

Recommendations. Prior to future trips, the B. Team should be completely informed of existing equipment in field stations prior to their departure. However in this connection preparations are now being made to have in readiness complete units of technical equipment for immediate use. Consequently should there be a shortage of desirable equipment, it could be immediately be dispatched to the field installation.